



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
GOVERNOR

JAMES C. KENNEY  
CABINET SECRETARY

## PUBLIC NOTICE

# Groundwater Discharge Permits Proposed for Approval

## December 17, 2021

Dear Interested Party,

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) hereby provides notice that the following Groundwater Discharge Permits have been proposed for approval. NMED will allow 60 days after the date of publication of this notice (or as otherwise provided below) for submittal of written comments and/or a request for a public hearing for a permitting action. You can add the comment period to your calendar through our Events Calendar located at <https://www.env.nm.gov/events-calendar/>. Requests for public hearing shall be in writing and shall set forth the reasons why a hearing should be held. A hearing will be held if NMED determines that there is substantial public interest. After the administrative record for a permitting action is complete and all required information is available, NMED will approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove the Permit based on the administrative record.

NMED maintains a Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for each permitting action to plan for providing public participation opportunities and information that may be needed for the community to participate in a permitting process. PIPs may be viewed on-line at <https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/>, at the NMED field office nearest to the proposed permitted activity, or by contacting the NMED Permit Contact identified below. NMED also maintains facility-specific mailing lists for persons wishing to receive associated notices for a permitting action.

To learn more about a Discharge Permit and the permitting process, to be placed on a facility-specific mailing list, or to obtain a copy of a draft permit or PIP, please contact the NMED Permit Contact at the telephone number or address provided below. Draft permits may be viewed on-line at <https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/> under the tab for the facility's county. Comments or a request for hearing regarding a draft permit should be addressed to the GWQB, PO Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469, or emailed to the NMED Permit Contact.

If you are a non-English speaker, do not speak English well, or if you have a disability, you may contact the NMED Permit Contact to request assistance, an interpreter, or an auxiliary aid in order to learn more about a Discharge Permit or the permitting process, or to participate in activities associated with the permitting process. To the extent possible, NMED will arrange for requested interpretation services and

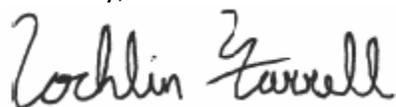
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Ground Water Quality Bureau | 1190 Saint Francis Drive, PO Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469  
Telephone (505) 827-2900 | [www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/](http://www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/)

accommodations or services for persons with disabilities. Telephone conversation assistance is available through Relay New Mexico at no charge for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have difficulty speaking on the phone, by calling 1-800-659-1779; Spanish: 1-800-327-1857; TTY users: 1-800-659-8331. Telephone interpretation assistance for persons that are a non-English speaker or do not speak English well is available at no charge when calling NMED.

NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED's non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, you may contact: Kathryn Becker, Non-Discrimination Coordinator, New Mexico Environment Department, 1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502, (505) 827-2855, [nd.coordinator@state.nm.us](mailto:nd.coordinator@state.nm.us). If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified above or visit our website at <https://www.env.nm.gov/general/environmental-justice-in-new-mexico/> to learn how and where to file a complaint of discrimination.

Sincerely,



Lochlin Farrell  
Ground Water Quality Bureau

**“How can I be of assistance?”**

Lochlin is available by telephone during normal business hours at **(505) 660-8061**. Lochlin can help you with questions regarding this public notice or public involvement and can arrange for an interpreter to be on the phone line for the duration of your call at no cost to you.

Enclosure: Groundwater Discharge Permits Proposed for Approval



## Discharge Permit: DP-484, Chino Mine; Tailing Pond 7 and Axiflo Lake; Pipeline Corridor Area; and the Filter Plant

- County: Grant | Closest City: Silver City
- Applicant: Randy B. Ellison, General Manager, Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company, PO Box 10, Bayard, NM 88023.
- NMED Permit Contact: Brad Reid, Geologist, Brad.Reid@state.nm.us, Telephone: 505-372-8533.
- Draft permits may be viewed on-line at <https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/> under the tab for Grant County.
- The Public Involvement Plan may be viewed online at <https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/> or at the NMED office in Silver City, 3082 32nd Street Bypass Road, Suite D, Silver City, NM 88061.
- Written comments or requests for a hearing for DP-484 accepted until 5:00 p.m. MST, February 16, 2022.

**Notice:** DP-484, Tailing Pond 7 and Axiflo Lake; Pipeline Corridor Area; and the Filter Plant; Randy B. Ellison, General Manager, proposes to renew and modify the Discharge Permit for the discharge of up to 28.16 million gallons per day (MGD) of tailing slurry, process water, and domestic wastewater to a mine tailing impoundment and up to 0.6 MGD of copper concentrate to the Filter Plant. The modification includes incorporation of operational mine units from DP-214 (Axiflo Lake, Filter Plant) and DP-213 (Pipeline Corridor Area consisting of one process water, one copper concentrate, and three tailing pipelines) and associated infrastructure. Potential contaminants from this type of discharge include sulfate, nitrate, total dissolved solids, and metals. The facility is located at 99 Santa Rita Mine Road, Vanadium, in Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 32, and 33, T19S, R12W, Sections 5, 6, 7, 18, 19, 30, 31 and 32, T18S, R12W, Sections 32, T17S, R12W, Grant County. Groundwater most likely to be affected is at a depth of approximately 1-200 feet and had a pre-discharge total dissolved solids concentration of approximately 200-400 milligrams per liter.

## Discharge Permit: DP-1236, Freeport - McMoRan Little Rock Mine

- County: Grant | Closest City: Silver City
- Applicant: Erich J. Bower, General Manager, Freeport – McMoRan, PO Box 571, Tyrone, NM 88065.
- NMED Permit Contact: Brad Reid, Geologist, Brad.Reid@state.nm.us, Telephone: 505-372-8533.
- Draft permits may be viewed on-line at <https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/> under the tab for Grant County.
- The Public Involvement Plan may be viewed online at <https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/> or at the NMED office in Silver City, 3082 32nd Street Bypass Road, Suite D, Silver City, NM 88061.
- Written comments or requests for a hearing for DP-1236 accepted until 5:00 p.m. MST, February 16, 2022.

**Notice:** DP-1236, Freeport - McMoRan Little Rock Mine: Erich J. Bower proposes to renew and modify the Discharge Permit for the discharge of process water which includes stormwater and groundwater that is pumped from the Little Rock Mine open pit into the Tyrone Mine process water circuit. The modification request is to expand the Little Rock open pit. The facility is located at South Highway 90 & Tyrone Mine Rd, approximately 12 miles southwest of Silver City, in Sections 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, and 21, T19S, R15W, Grant County. Groundwater most likely to be affected is at a depth of approximately 0 to 680 feet and had a pre-discharge total dissolved solids concentration of 100 to 500 milligrams per liter.



## Discharge Permit: DP-1132, Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility

- County: Los Alamos | Closest City: Los Alamos
- Applicants: United States Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Los Alamos Field Office, Darlene Rodriguez, Assistant Manager, Mission Assurance & Infrastructure, 3747 W. Jemez Road, MS A316, Los Alamos, NM 87544. Triad National Security, LLC, J'nette Hyatte, Senior Director, Environmental Protection & Compliance Division, PO Box 1663, MS K491, Los Alamos, NM 87545.
- NMED Permit Contact: Andrew Romero, Geoscientist, [AndrewC.Romero@state.nm.us](mailto:AndrewC.Romero@state.nm.us), Telephone: (505) 660-8624.
- Access documents online: The draft permit, PIP, and Factsheet may be viewed on-line at <https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/> under the tab for Los Alamos County.
- Access documents at a document repository: A hard copy of the draft permit, the Fact Sheet, and the PIP may be viewed at the following document repository locations: The NMED Los Alamos Field Office: 1183 Diamond Drive, Suite B, Los Alamos, NM 87544. The NMED Española Field Office: 712 La Joya Street, Española, NM 87532. The Administrative Record may be viewed at the GWQB located at 1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite N2300, Santa Fe, NM 87505.
- Written comments or requests for a hearing for DP-1132 accepted until 5:00 p.m. MST, February 16, 2022.

**Notice:** DP-1132: Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (RLWTF): National Nuclear Safety Administration of the United States Department of Energy and Triad National Security, LLC propose to discharge up to 40,000 gallons per day of wastewater at or near the RLWTF. The facility and associated activities consist of a wastewater collection, storage, treatment, and disposal system (including the Waste Management Risk Mitigation Facility or WMRM); the low-level radioactive liquid waste treatment system; the transuranic waste water treatment system; the secondary treatment system; the Mechanical Evaporator System (MES); the Solar Evaporative Tank (SET) impoundment; and an outfall (Outfall 051) regulated by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act Section 402, 33 U.S.C§ 1342. A June 24, 2020, Order of the Secretary remanded the Discharge Permit to the GWQB for the purpose of considering the types and levels of financial assurance that should be applied to DP-1132 to ensure monies are available in the future to address corrective action, closure, and the post closure requirements at the RLWTF as specified in DP-1132. The new financial assurance requirements of DP-1132 are the sole subject of this public notice. The facility is located within Los Alamos National Laboratory, approximately 1.5 miles south of Los Alamos, New Mexico, in Sections 16, 17, 20, 21, and 22, T19N, R06E, Los Alamos County. Groundwater most likely to be affected ranges from depths of approximately one foot to 1,306 feet and has a total dissolved solids concentration ranging from approximately 162 to 255 milligrams per liter. The expected quality of the wastewater managed at the RLWTF may contain water contaminants with concentrations above the standards of 20.6.2.3103 NMAC and may contain toxic pollutants as defined in 20.6.2.7.T(2) NMAC. Potential contaminants associated with this waste stream include nitrogen compounds, metals, organic compounds, and low-level radioactive materials.

END OF PUBLIC NOTICE